



The President's Daily Brief

June 20, 1975

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~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

June 20, 1975

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SYRIA



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CSCE

The EC foreign ministers will meet in Luxembourg on June 24 and will probably suggest that, if agreement can be reached on the remaining issues, July 28 would be a better date for the Helsinki summit meeting than the July 22 date that has been proposed by Brezhnev in letters to heads of the major Western countries.

In recent weeks, Soviet concessions have facilitated agreement on many issues. There is now a consensus that the present phase of the conference could be completed in time to permit a finale next month, but only if something can be worked out on such still unsettled issues as military-related confidence-building measures, follow-on meetings, quadripartite rights in Berlin and Germany, and Cypriot representation at the summit. This last question has been raised by Ankara's demands that the Turkish Cypriot community be represented in the Cypriot delegation and by Turkey's objections to the presence of Makarios at Helsinki.

In proposing a specific date for the summit, the Soviets are putting pressure on the West to conclude the CSCE before the August vacation period. The Finns have let it be known that they will need four weeks' advance notice to prepare for the meeting.

A postponement of the summit from July to some time in the fall would complicate Brezhnev's calendar, particularly his projected visit to the US. Moreover, the longer the conference goes on, the greater the chance that developments elsewhere--in Portugal, for example--could imperil a successful conclusion.

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PORTUGAL

The deliberations of the ruling Revolutionary Council over Portugal's future enter their seventh day amid growing signs of disunity within the Armed Forces Movement.

The Council issued a communiqué yesterday expressing its displeasure with attempts to encourage an "advance toward dictatorship of the proletariat with the support of armed militias." The statement said this course is incompatible with the "pluralist path already defined for the Portuguese revolution."

This is a direct rebuke to the extreme leftist organizations that have brought Portugal close to anarchy in recent weeks and a warning to the Communists. It suggests that moderate officers on the Revolutionary Council are becoming more assertive. The marathon session of the Revolutionary Council points to deep divisions at the highest levels of the Movement.

One member of the Movement [redacted]

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[redacted] expects an attempt by pro-communist officers to oust moderate members of the Revolutionary Council. The radical officers reportedly plan to call a meeting of the Armed Forces General Assembly within a week to propose changes in the membership of the Revolutionary Council. They will accuse moderates of preventing the Council from taking decisive action. Ousted members would then be replaced by pro-communists.

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ITALY

Communist chief Enrico Berlinguer

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is concerned about pressure in the party ranks for new moves on the national political scene and wants to keep firm control of the situation and avoid being pushed into hasty moves.

Berlinguer will be cautious, stressing, as he did during the campaign, that the party's main objective for now is to provide "good government" at the regional and local levels. Implicit in what he says is the idea that Communist participation in the national government is the only way of ensuring similar progress at that level.

The Communists have all of the other parties on the defensive. Even the Socialists, who registered moderate gains and almost certainly will be joining the Communists in more local governments, are worried about being overshadowed in these alliances.

The prospect of an increase in such local alliances is one of the reasons behind the haste of Christian Democratic leader Fanfani in proposing yesterday that the four-party, center-left coalition be revived immediately. He is trying to get the Socialists involved in negotiations before they have time to put together many local governments with the Communists.

Unless the Christian Democrats offer powerful incentives, the Socialists are likely to resist for the time being. In addition to being divided over post-election strategy, the Socialists do not want their option of joining the Communists at the local level to become part of the bargaining for a new national government.

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EGYPT-LIBYA-LEBANON

President Sadat [REDACTED]

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Sadat has made a point of not interfering in the affairs of other Arab countries in order to divorce himself completely from the interventionist image that Egypt acquired under Nasir. In Qadhafi's case, however, he seems to have come near the end of his patience. [REDACTED] the Egyptians would like to see Qadhafi replaced by Prime Minister Jallud, the second-ranking member of the ruling council.

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The governor of Lebanon's central bank told Ambassador Godley in Beirut this week that Libya has transferred funds considerably in excess of its normal commercial and diplomatic needs into Lebanon during May and June.

Libya uses these funds to support a variety of leftist, Muslim, and radical fedayeen organizations in Lebanon. President Qadhafi would like to see a radical Muslim government installed in Beirut that would abandon Lebanon's policy of co-existence with Israel and would provide active support for the fedayeen.

The Libyan embassy has also bought outright at least four Beirut newspapers. Lebanese authorities are trying to close two of them for allegedly slandering Egyptian President Sadat.

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AZORES

The Portuguese military governor of the Azores again has ruled out independence for the islands, but implied that Lisbon is willing to make administrative and economic concessions to satisfy the disaffected Azoreans.

The military governor, speaking at an anti-independence demonstration, acknowledged that the Azores have serious problems and conceded that administrative autonomy is an urgent requirement. He ruled out independence as a solution for these problems, however, and denounced the separatists as wealthy landowners trying to protect their privileged status. Earlier, it seemed that the governor's position might be in danger because of his pro-Azorean sympathies. So far, there have been no reports of purges of pro-Azorean military officers, and the governor is said to have been given a vote of confidence in Lisbon.

Our consulate in the Azores reports that 9 of the 36 detained separatist leaders were released on June 17.

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NOTES

Egypt has put more restrictions on Soviet naval access to its ports and territorial waters.

[redacted] the Egyptians are now requiring diplomatic clearance for Soviet warships to enter Alexandria [redacted] on two recent occasions the flagship of the Mediterranean squadron has been denied permission to enter the port. The Egyptians so far do not appear to have interfered with Soviet use of the repair facilities at Alexandria.

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Indian Prime Minister Gandhi's appeal of her recent conviction for campaign violations in 1971 will be submitted to the Indian Supreme Court on Monday instead of today.

Mrs. Gandhi's party and the opposition are planning major rallies in New Delhi this weekend.

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Prime Minister Karamanlis' handpicked candidate, Constantine Tsatsos, was elected president of Greece yesterday by a parliamentary vote of 210 to 65.

Tsatsos is not expected to assume the prerogatives granted constitutionally to the chief of state; these will be exercised by Karamanlis as prime minister. Tsatsos was the principal architect of the new constitution and has been closely linked with Karamanlis during his long political career.

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Canada is insisting on stricter safeguards on nuclear technology and equipment than it has demanded heretofore in negotiations with Pakistan for a new accord covering cooperation on nuclear energy.

Pakistan has refused to accept Canada's new conditions, labeling them as "discriminatory." The Trudeau government is still smarting from the criticism it received for providing New Delhi with the reactor used to produce plutonium for India's first nuclear device. In negotiations with Pakistan, Canada is requiring tougher safeguards than those imposed on sales to India.

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